



## **FORT GEORGE G. MEADE NEWS RELEASE**

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
4550 PARADE FIELD LANE  
FORT MEADE, MD 20755  
[www.ftmeade.army.mil](http://www.ftmeade.army.mil)

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### **Fort Meade reiterates environmental commitment**

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MD., -- The Army announced today that it remains committed to continuing environmental cleanup work at Fort George G Meade for the Soldiers, family members and civilians, who live, work and enjoy recreational opportunities offered by the installation and surrounding area. To date, over \$83 million has been spent on these efforts and the Army continues to engage Federal and state regulators, the community through the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), and other stakeholders on a regular basis.

The Army disagrees with an Environmental Protection Agency decision received Feb. 4 which seeks to compel the Army to comply with a unilateral administrative order issued by the agency Aug. 27, 2007. The Army sought to negotiate alternatives with the agency and is currently seeking review within the Federal government in an effort to resolve the disagreement with EPA.

“We (Fort Meade) believe continuing the cleanup work is the right thing to do and look forward to continuing to work with EPA in a cooperative manner to move ahead on the project work,” said Col. Kenneth O McCreedy, Installation Commander. “The installation is very concerned that the Order would seriously delay progress on the cleanup work, especially this year, because of procedural requirements in the Order that duplicate work and documentation already completed for the Ft. Meade cleanup.”

McCreedy went on “to assure the soldiers, family members, and government civilian employees who work and live on the installation, and members of the public nearby, that there is no imminent and substantial endangerment to human health or the environment at any area on this property.” The Army flatly disputes EPA’s allegation that conditions at the installation or on previously transferred property may present such a threat. The Army has been implementing a cleanup program on the installation and transferred parcels for many years, spending over \$83 Million, and remains committed to continuing the cleanup work on both the installation and transferred property. Indeed, until very

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recently, EPA's public website advised that "all potential or actual human exposures" at the Fort Meade site are under control. Only since this dispute surfaced has EPA revised this assessment to state that it is now "working to determine" whether there is a potential exposure risk from Fort Meade. EPA has provided no new information to the Army to indicate what drove them to make this change.

The Army has attempted to negotiate in good faith with EPA to reach a Federal Facilities Agreement based on a long-established model that had been accepted by both agencies, McCreedy said. He expressed a willingness to continue these negotiations in good faith to try to reach an agreement with EPA. "We remain committed to meaningful involvement with the EPA, State, other stakeholders, and the public, and will continue to work closely with the Restoration Advisory Board to maintain the progress we have made in meeting our environmental responsibilities," McCreedy added.

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Further information can be obtained by contacting the Public Affairs Office at 301-677-1436.